

# Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project

## Rock Tunnel Rehabilitation Project

by Greg Shustrick

**Volume XXII  
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**Save the Date:  
No December  
meeting**

**January 13– SCRIP  
Board Meeting,  
Gander Mountain,  
9am; *Schedule of  
future meetings  
will be discussed.***

**May 25– Outdoor  
Night, Pittsburgh  
Pirates and PA Fish  
& Boat Commis-  
sion, PNG Park**

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*Photo by: Somerset Conservation District*

The 2014 / 2015 Somerset Conservation District’s Rock Tunnel rehab project involved the reconstruction of an existing abandoned mine passive treatment system that was insufficiently treating a historic mine discharge in Conemaugh Township, Somerset County PA. The project was funded by the Department of Community and Economic Development and was constructed by Earth Shapers LLC and Bio-Most Inc. Additional project partners were the NRCS Technical Assistance Group and the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The project involved removing over 1600 linear feet of existing wooden baffles and several hundred tons of iron oxide sludge from the system prior to new construction.

The new construction included the excavation of onsite sludge drying beds, an aeration pool, 150’ concrete spillway, settling basin, 300’ rock level lip spreader, and 18,000 square foot shallow aerobic wetland and importing 3100 cubic yards of earthen fill. In addition a trompe, or hydro-powered air compressor was installed to aerate the system. The combination of these components and devices accommodates mine water flows and enhances iron particle management and deposition.

There are five main components to the new system design, a trompe, a concrete spillway, a settling basin, a rock level lip spreader and an engineered wetland.

# Vote for the Kiski-Conemaugh as 2016 River of the Year!

Deadline to vote is December 14



The Kiski– Conemaugh Stream Team just finished their fall sampling and biological monitoring and are now preparing for the winter months. They are excited to announce that the Kiski-Conemaugh River is a contender for Pennsylvania’s 2016 River of the Year. The other nominees are: Lackawanna River, Lehigh River, Ohio River, and the North Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The contest is sponsored each year by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) to raise awareness of the important recreational, ecological, and historical resources associated with the state’s rivers and streams. The rules have changed since last year. It is one vote per email address. Please vote at:

<http://pariveroftheyear.org/vote-for-a-2016-river-of-the-year/>

*Continued from page one*

The primary aeration is provided by three separate trompes, which are hydro-powered air compressors that function with no moving parts or electricity. The action of falling water generates air pressure that is captured and used to oxygenate the water, which accelerates iron deposition. The concrete spillway is secondary form of aeration and reduces the velocity of the mine water by spreading the water over a wide span. The settling basin captures iron particles that drop out of the aerated mine water and can be removed for disposal. A rock level lip spreader provides even flows throughout the system and reduces velocity. The engineered wetland slows the flow of the mine water by creating a tortuous flow path, allowing time for iron deposition. In addition the biological actions of the wetland store and utilize the iron particles.

The redesigned treatment system is currently reducing 100 lbs. of iron loading into the South Fork of Bens Creek daily. That equates to a reduction of 18.25 tons per year. The system is working extremely well at removing and storing iron from the abandoned mine discharge. It is expected that the receiving waters will significantly improve within 12 months of treatment. To track the path of recovery of downstream waters, biological surveys (*macroinvertebrate and fish*) have been conducted and are slated to occur annually. In addition, the new system is also expected to treat the mine water more effectively as the system ages.

*Greg Shustrick is the Watershed Specialist with the Somerset Conservation District*





**Howell's Run #2 Before**



**Howell's Run #2 After**

## **Streambank Rehabilitation Projects Completed on Howell's Run**

by Robb Piper

The Cambria County Conservation District applied for funds to construct four streambank rehabilitation projects on the North Branch of the Little Conemaugh River and tributaries in 2013. They were awarded a grant for \$58,000 of GenOn Fine monies through the Foundation for PA Watersheds. Competitive bidding allowed for four additional stream projects to be constructed. The last two were also competitively bid and an award for \$11,432 was made to Sody's Excavating of Hastings, PA. Total projects (2) value was \$16,112 with all other matches applied. They completed the two projects on Howell's Run the first week of November, 2015. The first was Howell's Run #2 consisting of 80' of modified mud sills, one single log deflector and two multi-log deflectors for a total improved length of 134'. The second was Howell's Run #3 consisting of three multi-log deflectors and 50' of modified mud sill for a total improved length of 147'. Designs were done by PA Fish & Boat Commission Stream Habitat Section and they also assisted with instillation along with conservation district staff. All these projects were all completed on Cambria Somerset Authority Property above the Wilmore dam. The locations are above and below Spinner Road Bridge where Howell's Run travels under. This is a stocked trout stream and is open to the public.

*All photos on this page by: Cambria County Conservation District*



**Howell's Run #3 Before**



**Howell's Run #3 After**





## Conservation Outdoor Night with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and Pittsburgh Pirates

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, created in 1866, will celebrate its 150th Anniversary this coming year. The commission, in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Pirates, will be hosting a Conservation Outdoor Night on May 25, 2016 at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. Various conservation groups will be invited to set up a booth along Federal Street to share information about their group with the public before the game with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Discounted tickets and other perks will be available. Many other details still need to be decided but if your group would like to participate in this event, please contact Len Lichvar at [len-scd@wpia.net](mailto:len-scd@wpia.net).

### Vision 2025



The First Lutheran Church in Johnstown was the scene of the most recent meeting in November

where various community members suggested ways to better the city of Johnstown in the next decade, otherwise known as Vision 2025.

Three main areas of emphasis include: sense of community, vibrant and open economy and life-sustaining landscapes. Meeting attendees then broke into three groups and suggested ideas to improve the city in these areas. Of special interest to watershed groups would be a new perspective on improving the area landscapes. Many ideas were suggested, including river wall revitalization that would eliminate or modify sections of the river wall to allow for river access for recreational purposes like canoeing or kayaking.

Follow up meetings of all the groups will be held after the holidays. The landscape group was offered a meeting place at the end of January at the Heritage Discovery Center in Johnstown, but nothing definite is set at this time.

**Community members are encouraged to sign up to be invited to upcoming Vision 2025 meetings to learn how to get involved in one of the core areas or just learn more about the effort.**

To sign up for future meeting notification, see:  
<http://www.liftjohnstown.org/#!vision-2025/c173e>

For more information on the strategic vision plan see:  
[http://issuu.com/cfalleghenies/docs/vision\\_2025\\_strategic\\_vision\\_with\\_a/1](http://issuu.com/cfalleghenies/docs/vision_2025_strategic_vision_with_a/1)

You can also follow them on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/johnstownvision2025>

# SCRIP \$500 Scholarship

The Stonycreek Conemaugh River Improvement Project will be awarding a \$500 Scholarship to a worthy student for the current academic year. Deadline to submit is March 30, 2016.

## Eligibility—Applicant must:

- Either be a dues-paying SCRIP member or the child of a SCRIP member
- Reside in one of the counties that includes the Kiski-Conemaugh Basin (Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, or Westmoreland). Residency means the student lives in or is a resident at a school in one of these counties.
- Be in an accredited environmental field of study at a Pennsylvania college or university.

## How to Apply:

The application should contain these three parts:

- Part I-** A cover sheet with the following information: name, mailing address, email address, phone number, college or university attending, year and course of study
- Part II-** A typed statement, double-spaced, 12 pt font size, no longer than two pages explaining applicant's professional goals, how the course of study will meet those goals and any involvement to date in the field.
- Part III-** A copy of applicant's latest transcript

Applications must be received by March 30, 2016. Please send to: SCRIP, Scholarship 2016, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963. Award notification will be no later than April 30, 2016. Award check will be sent directly to the Financial Aid Office at the college or university.

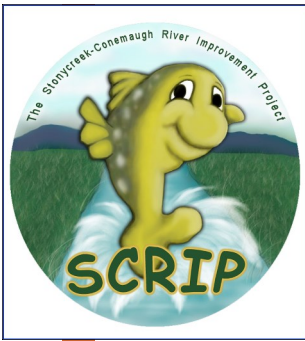
Award recipient will be required to inform SCRIP of his or her personal academic achievements, graduation and future career plans in article form for publication in the SCRIP newsletter. This information will be used to assist with promotion of any future SCRIP scholarship awards.

*Any questions about eligibility or other parts of the application should be addressed to SCRIP at: [info@ScripPA.org](mailto:info@ScripPA.org).*

### Join or renew\* SCRIP today!

Name _____		
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State/Zip _____	Email _____	
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Make your check payable to **SCRIP**, or for a tax-deductible contribution, make the check to **Southern Alleghenies Conservancy/ SCRIP**. \* If you are not sure of your membership status contact SCRIP's secretary at 814-444-2669 or [mreckner@kcstreamteam.org](mailto:mreckner@kcstreamteam.org). Send donations to: **SCRIP, P.O. Box 164, Windber, PA 15963**



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**[www.scrippa.org](http://www.scrippa.org)**

**SCRIP is the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project,**  
 a coalition of grass-roots groups and local resource agencies working to  
 restore and promote the Upper Conemaugh watershed.

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